

Service Date: June 15, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER of the Application of)	UTILITY DIVISION
the SOUTHER MONTANA TELEPHONE)	DOCKET NO. 81.5.53
COMPANY to Establish New Rates and)	ORDER NO. 4818
Charges for Telephone Service)	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On May 4, 1981, the Southern Montana Telephone Company (Company) filed with the Montana Public Service Commission a complete revision of the Company's Telephone Service Tariff. The revised tariff, filed concurrently with the Company's program of upgrading the system's aerial cable with buried cable, and designed to produce a minimal effect on existing subscribers, will produce additional annual revenues of approximately \$3,391. Practically all (97%) of the increased revenues stems from a re-pricing of new service connection charges.

2. In addition to revising the pricing schedule for new service connection charges the revised tariffs unbundle the instrument portion of local service and eliminate extension charges.

3. Following are the rate charges as anticipated under the revised tariff:

Business Access Lines and Business Extension Stations

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
1-party Business	7.50	7.00
2-party Business	6.75	6.25
Rural Business	5.00	4.50
Business Extensions	1.50	0.00
Business Instruments	0.00	1.00

Key Systems

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Central Office Access Line	7.50	10.50
Business Extension	1.50	0.00
3-Line Instruments	0.00	2.60
Vacation Service Reconnect Charge	0.00	5.00

New service connection charges are based on the actual amount of new construction necessary.

4. On May 13, 1981, the Car issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing in this matter. The notice included the estimated net annual revenue effect, listed the proposed rate changes and stated that requests for hearing were to be received no later than May 29, 1981.

5. The Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was published in two Montana newspapers (the Montana Standard and the Tribune Examiner) on May 19, 1981

6. No requests for hearing were received and no hearing was scheduled.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Southern Montana Telephone Company is a corporation providing telephone services within the state of Montana and as such is a public utility within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. The rates and charges approved herein are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Montana Public Service Commission that the Application of the Company's Tariff revision reflecting new rates and charges be granted in accordance with the Finding of Facts section of this order. The filed tariffs shall become effective for service rendered on and after June 8, 1981.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana on June 8, 1981, by a vote of 5-0

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

ATTEST

Madeline L. Cottrill

Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion for Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion for Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38.2.4806 ARM.